

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of:
Bernd-Georg Pietras

Serial No.: 09/762,699

Confirmation No.: 8491

Filed: May 10, 2001

For: Methods And Apparatus For
Connecting Tubulars Using A
Top Drive

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: Essama Omgba

Customer No.: 36,735

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE
TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents
referred to as attached therein are being facsimile transmitted
to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the fax number
indicated by the Examiner, namely, fax number 703/872-8906
to the attention of the named Examiner, on the date below.24 Feb 05
DateC. B. Pitt
Signature

37 CFR §1.312 AMENDMENT

Please enter this amendment. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge
counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0029/WBP for any fees required to
make this amendment timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on
page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

24. (Previously Presented) The top drive system of claim 20, wherein the horizontal movement is in a substantially horizontal plane.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the apparatus comprising:

a plate attachable to said top drive,

a supporting member for supporting a tool, and

a means for allowing substantially horizontal movement of said supporting member, ~~wherein said means comprises~~ the means comprising:

a rigid member arranged between said plate and said supporting member and arranged on at least one axle, and

~~wherein said means comprises~~ at least one arm arranged between said rigid member and said ~~support~~ supporting member and connected thereto by spherical bearings.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said motive member couples the plate to the supporting member.

27. (Previously Presented) A top drive system, comprising:

a top drive;

a tubular gripping apparatus; and

a connector operatively coupling the tubular gripping apparatus to the top drive, wherein the connector is adapted to allow the tubular gripping apparatus to move horizontally relative to the top drive and allow the tubular gripping apparatus to be rotated by the top drive.

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